SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, if we compare the criteria adopted in 1960 and 1982 series, we find a lot of improvement. I want to submit before the House that while determining the Consumer Price Index whatever method we adopt, I don't think any method is going to be a foolproof method or any method can be universally accepted. I do not think it is possible. Therefore, there has to be some difference; that we always admit.

Now, as far as 1962 and 1982 series are concerned, I am to make a little correction. There was a small mistake in what I said earlier; I am sorry. For example, in 1960 series, the centres covered were 50; in 1982 series, the number was raised to 70. In 1960 series, sectors covered were only 3, and in 1982 series, we have covered 7 sectors. Now the markets covered in 1960 series were 142 and in 1982, the number rose to 226. Coming to families covered, in 1960 the number was 22,460, and in 1982 it was 32,660. Now the items covered—I made a mistake there—there were 175 items in the basket in 1990; actually the number is 260 and I stand corrected.

Therefore, we find that there has been some progress as far as this is concerned.

Now we go to new family living survey which I assured, and there has been a demand to include more items in the basket and also that more weightage should be given to food items. All these things can be discussed in the tripartite committee that we are going to convene before we go in for a final survey.

*162. [*The questioners (Shrimati Kailashpati and Shrimati Veena Verma) were absent. For answer* vide col. 30-32 infra]

*163. [*The questioner (Shri Suresh Kalmadi) was absent. For answer* vide col. 32 infra]

Distribution of Dhara Oil through PDS

*164. DR. BAPU KALDATE:†
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken for distribution of Dhara Oil through the Public Distribution System to check the possibility of black marketing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

डा० बापू काल्दाते: सभापति जी, यह जो जवाब दिया गया है इसपर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है । महाराष्ट्र में खाद्य तेल बहुत कम मात्रा में दिये गये हैं । सरकार ने पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम के माध्यम से महाराष्ट्र में बहुत कम मात्रा में तेल दिया है । कल ही इस पर एक सवाल था। 5 सितम्बर का अनस्टार्ड क्वेश्चन नं० 565 है जिसमें मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि जनवरी से लेकर अगस्त तक जो खाद्य तेल दिया गया है उसमें इम्पोर्टेड एडीबल आयल 10 हजार टन है । महाराष्ट्र की रिक्वायरमेंट पर किलोग्राम, पर मन्थ, पर कार्ड होल्डर जो है वह 15 हजार 7 सौ टन है । इस प्रकार से एक महीने की जो डिमान्ड है उससे भी कम जनवरी से अगस्त तक मिला है । अभी महाराष्ट्र में गौरी का त्यौहार आने वाला है और गणश का त्यौहार आने वाला है । अगर सरकार छः महीने में एक महीने का भी तेल नहीं दे सकती है तो आगे आने वाले दिनों में क्या करेगी, यह हमारी समझ में नहीं आता है । इसलिए हमारी बराबर मांग रही है कि यह जो "धारा" वाला तेल

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bapu Kaldate.

है और जो कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर में है, वह आप प्राइवेट डीलरों को बेचते हैं, क्यों न इसको दिया जाय । हो सकता है, धारा वाला तेल आप मार्केट में बेचकर शायद मुनाफा कमा लेते होंगे । लेकिन अगर इसको पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम के माध्यम से दिया जाय तो इससे सरकार के ऊपर बोझ भी कम हो जाएगा । कुछ दिन पहले श्री कुलकर्णी जी ने और मैंने एक स्पेशल मेंशन भी दिया था कि हमारी जरूरत को तुरन्त पूरा किया जाय क्योंकि अब त्यौहार आ रहे हैं। लेकिन मंत्री जी सीधा-सा उत्तर देते हैं कि "नो, सर"। हमारा सवाल है कि क्यों नहीं देते हैं ?

If these are the cooperatives, why don't you direct them to give this oil to the public distribution system and not to the market? Are these co-operatives meant for the common people or meant for the profiteers? They are meant to serve the people. The Government cannot avoid or evade this responsibility. Government must do something in this regard and tell these cooperatives, whosoever they are, that whatever oil they are getting, it should go to the people through the public distribution system. Is it your liberalisation policy that you are carrying on in this country? Should they sell these items to the people or to the profiteers who charge as much as they want? Poor people cannot purchase it from the markets; it is only the rich who will enjoy. Is it the way we should go? Government should insist that this should go to the public distribution system and not the private dealers. What is Government's reaction to this?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I share the anxiety of the hon. Member. As the hon. Member said, there is a chaotic condition prevailing in the market with regard to edible oils. Before the entry of NDDB in the market, the Government of India announced an integrated policy on edible oil and oilseeds on the 5th of January, 1989. This was intended to accelerate the domestic production of oils and it was also intended to reduce the foreign exchange spent on the import of edible oil. Another important objective of the policy was to maintain the wholesale price of groundnut oil and mustard oil. It was also intended to ensure incentive prices of oilseeds to the farmers and also reasonable prices to the consumers. At that time, when this policy was enunciated under the Integrated Policy on Edible Oils approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, distinct roles have been earmarked to different departments and different agencies. The Department of Civil Supplies along with the State Governments was made responsible for PDS. The Department of Agriculture and NDDB were responsible for Market Intervention Operations. So, there is no point in saying that NDDB should take up the responsibility of distributing edible oils through the PDS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking about this particular oil, Dhara. Can't you ask the co-operatives—if I understand him rightly—to give Dhara oil through the PDS? This is the question. Am I correct?

DR. BAPU KALDATE: What you have said is absolutely correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I made it short so that it could be understood.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: The NDDB has already asked the Gujarat Co-operative Marketing Federation to distribute the oil through their wide network of distribution system throughout the country. To my knowledge, they are doing it to the utmost satisfaction of the consumers. I do appreciate the fact that there is shortage of edible oils in the country. But that is not due to the activities of the NDDB, or for that matter, due to the inefficiency of the NDDB.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: The consumers who have been satisfied are those who can afford to get the oil at any rate. But what about the ration card-holders? The question is, which section of the people has been satisfied? There are lakhs of card-holders in Bombay. 35% of the people are urbanised. But the majority is that of the slum dwellers. They are not able to get Dhara through this system. When Dhara is sold to the retailers, only those people who can afford to buy at that rate are able to get it. These people are not bothered much about the price rise. These people are always satisfied. But what about the poor people? What exactly are you going to do for them? Either the Government must make more allocation to the Maharashtra Government or should distribute it through the PDS. . . . (व्यवधान) . . . सभापति जी, हमारी दिक्कत यह है और हमारी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है कि इतने दिनों से हम इस बारे में प्रयास कर रहे हैं, लेकिन जो गरीब लोग हैं उनको तेल देने के बारे में सरकार कुछ नहीं कर रही है। इसका हमें दुख है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants Dhara oil to be supplied to the poor people.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I share the sentiments and concern expressed by the hon. Member. Dhara is being distributed through a wide network of 1,50,000 retailers. In Delhi, Bombay and Gujarat, this oil is being supplied through Super Bazars, Apna Bazars and Kendriya Bhandars. In Kendriya Bhandars, Dhara is available in plenty. There are also a large number of Kendriya Bhandar and vegetable stores which supply this oil.

श्री सभापति : श्री ए०जी० कुलकर्णी। छोटे में करिये, धारा प्रवाह मत करियेगा।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to please allow me to put my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am permitting you. Put your question. That is all. संक्षेप में करिये, धारा प्रवाह मत करिये।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Minister, it is really beyond my comprehension. I do not understand what you are talking. The basic point is this. We raised this by way of a Special Mention some four days back. The Civil Suplies Minister is here. I have with me yesterday's newspaper, published from Bombay. This is a Marathi paper. You do not understand Marathi. It says. "Nothing is available. There are chaotic conditions." You are saying that NDDB is distributing Dhara through 1,50,000 retail outlets. I am a co-operator for life. I do not know whether you are a co-operator. Mr. Balram Jakhar—he is absent today—supports co-operatives.

Sir, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra wrote to the Government of India. I raised this issue when Mr. Chandra Shekhar was the Prime Minister. He said that NDDB would be directed to distribute Dhara through the State Government and the PDS arrangement. That was the assurance. But unfortunately, it was a short-lived Government. Now, I would request you. Don't stand on ego. Don't be afraid of Mr. Kurien, who is the Chairman of the NDDB. He has got his hands very long. I know. But be a fair gentleman and a humanist Maharashtra, as you know is well-adminstered, but the position is chaotic now. There is a backlog of one lakh..

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? You have given a good certificate to Maharashtra. It is good. You have said that the condition is chaotic. But what are you asking?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, an assurance was given by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Balram Jakhar, some days back, said that whatever is produced by the co-operatives should be distributed...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is whether they will give it to the co-operatives?

श्री अरविंद गणेश कुलकर्णी : इतना सिम्पल नहीं है साहब ।

श्री सभापति : लेकिन पूछो भाई । आज ही सुबह बात हुई थी कि सवाल संक्षेप में होगा ।

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : होगा ।

श्री सभापति : आज सुबह इन्होंने वायदा किया था ।
There was an agreement that he will put short questions.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: If I put so many questions, you will be embarrassed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, what is this observation? The Chairman will never be embarrassed. He should not make this kind of remark.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Please distribute Dhara through the State Government and the PDS. This is our demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not put your question, I will call the next Member.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I would like to know whether it will be distributed through the PDS.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, as I have said already, distinct roles have been earmarked by the Government to different departments and different agencies. The Department of Civil Supplies and the State Governments are responsible for the PDS. The NDDB has been entrusted with the task of market intervention operations alone. Therefore, we cannot advise the NDDB, we cannot ask the NDDB, to distribute it through the PDS.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You can change it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What is market intervention? In the interest of the poor people or in the interest of the traders?

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Private traders.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What do you mean by market intervention?

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, the NDDB purchases groundnut at lower rates. The hon. Minister says that it is the responsibility of the State Governments. But actually, the legal position is, the Act governing the co-operatives does not provide anything in regard to declaration of stock by the NDDB. The NDDB is taking advantage of it and making profits through the sale of Dhara. I would like to know whether the Government has made any provision to make the NDDB declare the stocks of groundnut and groundnut oil in its possession?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know the stock with the NDDB.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: The hon. Minister has said that the State Government is concerned with declaration of stocks. Is their any provision in the Cooperative Societies Act to declare particular stock of groundnut and groundnut oil which the NDDB is holding?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: At the moment I do not have the information. I will pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sometime back an article appeared in an economic and political weekly in which it was said that Dhara or pal-

moline oil which is being imported by the NDDB is firding its way into private market for adulteration in oils which are costlier. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is acquainted with this article but the magazine is a well-founded one. So, would the hon. Minister agree with this?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Dhara oil is superior in quality and it is the cheapest in the market.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Oil like groundnut and vanaspati oils are sold at a higher price in the market. Dhara, being the cheapest, they say that it is finding its way in the open market for being adulterated with the oils which are selling at a higher cost. I am talking cost-wise and not quality-wise.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I reiterate the point that it is the cheapest and of a superior quality in the market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you seeing that it is not mixed with higher-cost oils? That is what he wants to know. (*Interruptions*). You said that it is the cheaptest. Now there are higher price oils. He says that the cheapest oil is being mixed with the higher price oil. That is why it is not available to the people at a price at which it should be available to them. Is that the question?

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I do not have information with me.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदया, यह प्रश्न तो केवल एक सूबे तक सीमित नहीं है, यह पूरे देश का सवाल है। इसी स्थिति में जो खाद्य तेल का अभाव है उस अभाव की पूर्ति के लिए सरकार बाहर से इम्पोर्ट भी करती है। यह प्रश्न कृषि मंत्रालय से संबंधित है कि धारा को कब पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम से वितरण कराने की कोई योजना सरकार के पास है। जब यह सुपीरियर क्वालिटी का है और अभी आपने यह भी कहा कि चीपेस्ट है तो यह जो सुपर बाजार के जरिये शहरों में जैसे दिल्ली आदि में बिकवाते हैं, इसलिए जो गांव की हमारी जनता है, आपके आधार पर चीपेस्ट है अतः उनको भी मिल सके इसके लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आप वितरण विभाग जो है उसको इस बात का निर्देश देंगे ताकि उसका वितरण देहाती क्षेत्रों तक भी उस अनुपात में जा सके जिस अनुपात में गांव के लोगों को जरूरत पड़ती है क्योंकि शहरों में अगर आप रखेंगे तो देहातियों का क्या लाभ होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is very simple. He wants to know whether you will make it available in the rural areas as you are doing in the urban areas like Delhi.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: There is an ambitious project with the NDDB to supply and cover whole of India by 1995. I understand the predicament of poor consumers. It is in short supply throughout the country. With this ambitious scheme we will be able to cover whole of India by 1995.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मेरे कहने का मतलब है कि जो धारा आपके पास है वही धारा क्यों नहीं गांवों तक बहा रहे हैं। उस धारा को गांवों तक बहाएंगे तभी तो काम चलेगा।

श्री सभापति : वह धारा 1995 तक वहां पहुंच जाएगी।

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: We cannot cater to the entire country with the available stock with us.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Mr. Chairman, the Government is committed to extending the public distribution system. It is a fashion of the day to quote from the manifesto of the Con-

gress Party. In their manifesto they say that they will extend and strengthen the PDS. The Government has already taken a decision so that some more items can be distributed through the public distribution system. The Minister is repeatedly saying that the NDDB will have market intervention, and it will cover the whole of the country by 1995. Yesterday only the Civil Supplies Minister said that because of the resource crunch for the last few months we were not importing edible oil. So, it could not be distributed through the public distribution system. Now the specific question is this. When it has also been said by the Minister that the only way to reach out to the poorer sections of the consumers is the public distribution system, is the Government ready to consider distributing the Dhara oil through the public distribution system i.e. the existing public distribution system?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: At the moment we do not have any proposal from the Civil Supplies Department to supply edible oils through the PDS, Sir. As I put it earlier, I want to reiterate the point that under the agreement between the NDDB and the Government of India, the NDDB cannot operate through the PDS. That is the thing. That is the agreement between the Government of India and NDDB when the policy was enunciated.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: That has to be changed.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: It cannot be at the moment.

Implementation of Irrigation Projects in the Drought Prone Districts

*165. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified irrigation projects for implementing them on priority basis in the drought prone districts in the country; and

(b) if so, the various irrigation projects proposed to be implemented in Phulbani, Kalahandi, Bolangir and other drought prone districts of Orissa in 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The irrigation projects under implementation in Orissa providing benefits to the drought-prone districts of Phulbani, Kalahandi and Bolangir are:

(1) Upper Indravati Multi-purpose Project—Major

(2) Modernisation of Hirakud Irrigation System—Major

(3) Upper Jonk Irrigation Project—Medium

(4) Bondapipli—Medium

(5) Hariharjore—Medium

(6) Modernisation of Budhabudhiani—Medium

(7) Modernisation of Uttei—Medium

(8) Modernisation of Saipal—Medium

श्री जगदीश जानी : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि उड़ीसा का फुलबनी जिला एक सूखाग्रस्त जिला है, मंत्री जी ने बोण्डा-पिपिलि परियोजना का 1991–92 में आर्थिक वर्ष में कार्यान्वित करने के लिए बताया है, इस परियोजना में कितना रुपया खर्च होगा और क्या परियोजना पूरी करने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही करने का है ?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, the irrigation schemes in the Phulbani District are going on, and I will supply to the House the exact amount that has been spent on these projects and the amount yet to be